in the peripheral areas of the Capital and these Hospitals are at different states of planning/construction. Constant efforts are also being made to augment the facilities in the existing Government hospitals.

Complaints against Director, CRI Kasauli (H.P.)

2900. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a Memorandum or representation from the Employees' Association of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) listing allegations of the irregularities and misconduct against the Director of the Institute;

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is prposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to order an inquiry into the matters; and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The complaint has been examined and the CRI Employees' Association, Kasauli were asked to furnish evidence in support of the charges levelled against the Director of the Institute. They have not so far furnished any evidence in this regard.

Discovery for new virus

2901. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recent World AIDS Conference held at AMSTERDAM an expatriate Indian microbiologist Shri Sudhir Gupta of the University of California, has claimed to have discovered a new Virus that causes an AIDS-like disease;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what were the main recommendations made by the conference for elimination of this disease and cooperation sought/proposed amongst the delegates who attended the World Conference in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Dr. Sudhir Gupta, an expatriate Indian Microbiologist at University of California has claimed to have identified a retrovirus (Human Intra-cisternal Retrovirus (HICRV) which causes AIDS-like disease. This is based on the virus isolated from a woman in United States with an AIDS-like syndrome who has no risk factors for AIDS and no signs of infection with HIV. This new virus was also isolated from the same woman's daughter who had no symptoms of AIDS or HIV infection. His research has not demonstrated that the new virus caused AIDS or any other disease. He also does not know how it is transmitted. Its detection is not easy as it dos no multiply like HIV.

The delegates participating in the World AIDS Conference at Amsterdam discussed a number of AIDS related subjects and as such, no specific recommendations were made at the end of the Conference. However, the discussions revolved around the following aspects:—

(a) Causative factors of HIV infections including strain characteristics and different types of virus related to mode of transmission;

(b) Commitment for vaccine production, selection of sites for vaccine trials especially in developing countries and technically advanced countries;